



*The Mill and
Drill*

Vol 1, Issue 26 (Jan. 21,
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DEAR CUSTOMER

Welcome to your weekly installment of "*The Mill & Drill*", TriMech Mfg.'s Technical Newsletter for FeatureCAM. This newsletter is intended to keep you, the hip TriMech FeatureCAM User, on the cutting edge of your FeatureCAM seat. Don't forget to visit www.trimech.com for additional information.

NOTICES

Programming Services/DNC Services

Please keep in mind that TriMech Manufacturing can help with programming when you have complex 3D parts or even when you have a backlog of programming that has to be finished. Give us a call for pricing information.

As you may know, TriMech also offers *Predator* to communicate G-code programs to your CNC machines. Predator is a DNC package loaded with lots of goodies. To mention one, Predator Editor has a back plot utility that will simulate a G-code program the exact same way FeatureCAM simulates in 3D. You just add stock size and tool size to the top of the G-code file and Predator Editor will directly simulate the code. This is useful for verification of current programs as well as old programs written years ago. For more information, just email us.

Did you miss a newsletter?

Don't worry, the newsletters are posted, every issue, in PDF format on the TriMech Web Site (www.trimech.com). Just hover over TriMech Manufacturing, Technical Support and you will see "The Mill & Drill" letters to the right side.


Is there anybody else at your company who would like to receive the newsletter?

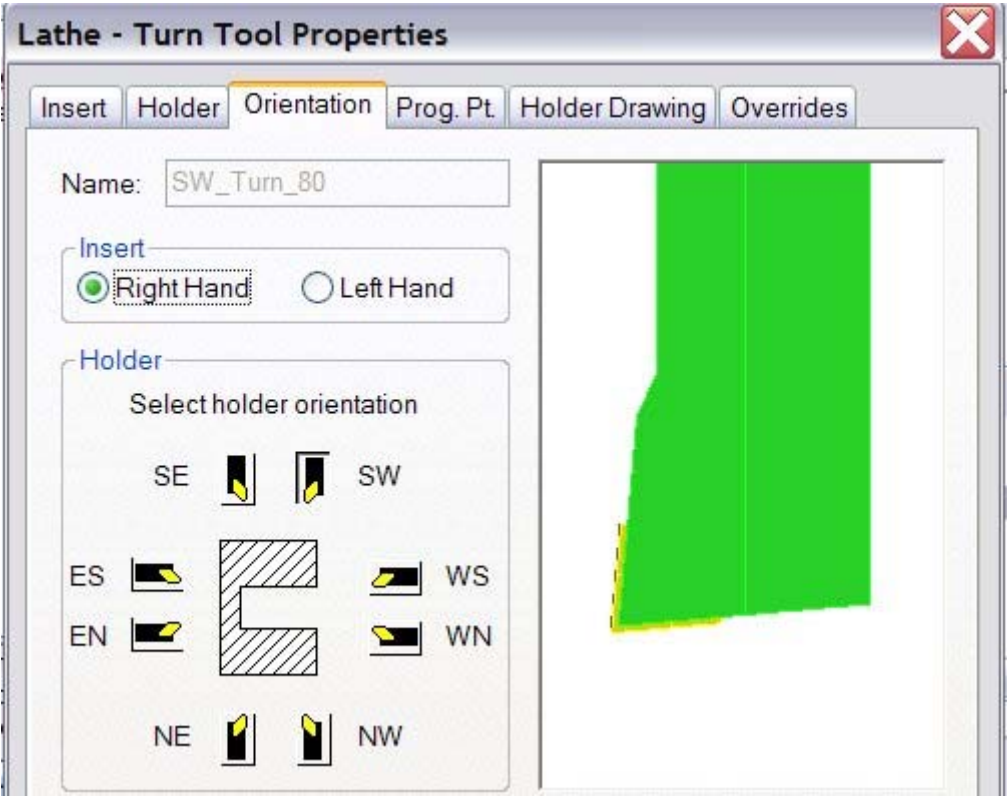
Send us their name and e-mail address, and we'll add them to the list.

FeatureCAM TRAINING SCHEDULE

Note: Our main training facility is in Fishersville, VA, but we can make special arrangements for classes at any of our other TriMech offices (Columbia, MD; Pittsburgh, PA; Richmond, VA; Durham, NC; and Charlotte, NC). We also provide on-site training. Call (540) 949-7703 for rates and details.

Fishersville, VA	
FeatureCAM Basic (2 days)	Feb. 9,10
	Mar. 9,10
	Feb. 17

FeatureCAM Advanced Milling	Mar. 17
FeatureCAM Turning	TBD
TIPS AND TRICKS	
<p>Adding tools on the fly</p> <p>If you are creating a feature that requires a tool that you do not have in your current crib, you can add it without leaving the feature. We're not talking about creating a new tool - we are talking about retrieving a tool that already exists from another tool crib. The easiest time to do this is after you have hit Finish, when you can access feature Properties. Go to the Tools tab of the operation in question and click the Tool Manager icon.  The Tool Manager will launch, and you can now browse through the available cribs in the "From tool" section to find the tool you need. Select that tool, Add it to your Current Crib and save the changes. Exit the Tool Manager. You will be right back on the Tools tab of the Feature Properties, and the added tool will be available for use.</p> <p>Pssst! Eliminate the splash screen!</p> <p>As much as we all <i>love</i> FeatureCAM, it is a bit annoying that we have to stare at the logo splash screen for 10-15 seconds every time we launch the software. Or is that just me? Anyway, it is possible to turn it off...if you <i>really</i> want to. Next time you are inside the software, hold down your Ctrl button and right-click on the Status Bar. (That's the bar on the very bottom of your screen where you see the active crib, post, units, etc.) A menu will pop up, and you will be able to clear the check box beside "Show splash screen." Warning: DO NOT TOUCH any of the other options you see unless you are a very, very advanced user!!</p> <p>My lathe tools run the wrong direction.</p> <p>When you generate lathe code, are you getting M4s instead of M3s, and vice versa? Most people assume this is a problem with their post processor, but that's not necessarily true. Here's a way to troubleshoot the problem:</p> <p>Open or create a part with at least one <i>drilled</i> hole feature and examine the code. Is the spindle direction for the drill incorrect? (Assuming you're using standard, right-handed drills, of course.) If so, your post <i>is</i> wrong, and we need to fix it. Give us a call, and we will walk you through the fix right over the phone.</p> <p>If your drill direction is correct, but all of your other tools are wrong, the problem is with your tool definitions. What you will need to do is go into the properties of each turning tool you use and change the orientation from left-hand (the default) to right-hand. Look at this example. The picture of the tool even changes to show the insert "under" the holder in a rear turret machine.</p>	



This should fix your problem. If it doesn't, or if this explanation was too confusing, give us a call.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Please send any tips/tricks, feedback (regarding this newsletter) or requests to be added/removed from our distribution list to...

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